

How to Collect Lead and/or Copper Drinking Water Samples

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment



1. **Identify a laboratory that is certified to analyze drinking water samples.**
 - Visit <https://wqcdcompliance.com> to find a list of Colorado Certified Safe Drinking Water Laboratories or visit <http://www.coloradostatelab.us> for water testing information.
 - Be sure to request a **wide-mouth, one liter sampling bottle.**
2. **Identify the correct faucet for sample collection:**
 - For samples collected from single-family homes, always collect samples from an indoor **bathroom sink or kitchen faucet that is used regularly.**
 - For samples collected from buildings other than single-family homes, (i.e. businesses, schools), always collect samples from an indoor **bathroom sink, kitchen faucet, break room sink or other similar sink locations that are used regularly for human consumption.**
 - Always collect samples from a cold water faucet.
 - Always collect samples from a faucet that is **not connected** to a water treatment device (e.g., water softener, filter, etc.).
 - Always collect samples from an inside faucet.
3. **Prepare for sample collection.**
 - **Do not clean or remove aerators prior to or during collection of the tap samples.**
 - **Collect samples from a tap that has not been used for a minimum of 6 hours.** Because of this requirement, the best time to collect samples is either early in the morning or in the evening upon returning from work.
4. **Collect the Sample:**
 - Take the cap off of the bottle.
 - Place the sample bottle under the faucet.
 - Turn on the **cold water faucet,** filling the bottle at a flow that a consumer would use to fill up a glass of water.
 - Fill the bottle (**do not overfill**).
 - Tightly cap the sample bottle.
5. **Complete laboratory-provided paperwork that will accompany the sample(s) (i.e. chain-of-custody form).** Be sure to include the following information:
 - The PWS ID, site address, and sink location where the sample was collected (i.e., kitchen sink, first-floor bathroom sink, etc.).
 - Make note of any plumbing repairs or replacement that have been performed in the home since the previous sampling event (if applicable).
 - Make note of the presence of an aerator.
 - The date and time that the water was last used.
 - The date and time that the sample was collected.